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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Learn How to Use Online Plan Finder for New Medicare Drug Coverage

Seniors on Medicare will soon sign up for new prescription drug plans. People wishing to help seniors with this process can learn to assist them at a free training session Tuesday, October 25, at the Silver Lake Motel Banquet & Convention Center in Coeur d'Alene.

A user-friendly Internet tool will be demonstrated during the two-hour session from 8:30-10:30 a.m. The tool can be viewed at <http://www.medicare.gov>. Enrollment for seniors in the drug program begins Tuesday, November 15. Training is provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and is sponsored by Health and Welfare, SHIBA, and the Idaho Partner Taskforce on Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage.

“Medicare’s online plan finder tool is the easiest way to identify plans that best meet a person’s prescription needs; it takes into account the hometown and financial situations of applicants,” says Michelle Britton, Region 1 Director for Health and Welfare in Coeur d'Alene. “For many of our seniors, enrolling in a plan may be confusing. Volunteers can help our elderly neighbors navigate this process so they can receive the medications they need to protect their health.”

Britton encourages people willing to help seniors with this plan selection process to attend the training. “The Medicare prescription drug program is for everyone on Medicare, regardless of income,” adds Penny Wilhem, an insurance advisor from SHIBA. “There’s extra help with costs for those who have limited resources. The online process may be the easiest way to find a plan, if you don’t already have coverage.”

For more information and to reserve a seat, call Health and Welfare at 769-1515, ext. 360.

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(Editors: For more information, contact Michelle Britton, Region 1 Director, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Coeur d'Alene, at 208-769-1515.)